Equal Rights

VOL. XI, No. 30
FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 6, 1924

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PERIODICAL DIVISION

Mary Wollstonecraft Episode

In Farewell to Election Campaigners At Meadowmont, August Seventeenth

Feminist Notes

Women And The League Of Nations

THE fifth assembly of the League of Nations convened at Geneva, September 1st. Only six nations out of the 54 states which are members of the League have so far appointed women to sit in this great annual assembly, and then not with full powers, but as substitute delegates. The Scandinavian countries have consistently sent women from the first, so that this year Fru Bugge Wicksell of Sweden, Professor Kristine Bonnevie of Norway and Froken Henni Forchhammer of Denmark will be attending the assembly for the fifth year in succession. Mlle. Vacersco was appointed by the Roumanian Government in 1921, and has sat in each succeeding assembly. Mrs. H. H. Swanick, who has been included in this year's British delegation, is the third British woman to attend the assembly, while Mrs. G. F. Allen, editor of the *Melbourne Argus* and a well-known woman in her own country, is the third woman sent by the Australian Government.

Of special interest to women will be a discussion on the protection of young women traveling alone, proposed by Cuba; the report of the new Commission which has recently been set up to deal with the problem of slavery; the subject of opium on which two highly important conferences will be held in November; the report on the traffic in women and children, of which the most important development during the year has been the collection of statistics on national laws regulating prostitution, and matters connected with the International Association for the promotion of Child Welfare, which society has now been taken over by the League.

Convention Of Portuguese Women

THE following letter has just been received from the president of the National Council of Portuguese Women:

"Lisbon, Portugal, July 19, 1924.
"Dear Madam:

"I have the honor of sending you the report of the first Convention of Portuguese Women, which has created a tremendous interest among Portuguese women.

"The President of the Republic was present at the opening session and the press has published splendid accounts of the affair.

"I would be very happy indeed if you would make this matter public through the columns of your paper, EQUAL RIGHTS.

"Accept, dear Madam, the assurance of my deepest sympathy.

"DR. ADELAIDE CABELLO,
"President of the National Council of Portuguese Women."

International Federation Of University Women

THREE hundred women delegates attended the third bi-ennial conference of the International Federation of University Women, held in Christiania, Norway, last month. The delegates were the guests of the four northern national federations of Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland. The conference opened in the Great Hall of the University of Christiana, and the delegates were welcomed by the presidents of the four northern countries, the principal of the university

Circulation Campaign

My Dear Editor:

The road to success for our amendment will surely be found through the paths opened to women by the revelations found in our paper, EQUAL RIGHTS. New subscribers will mean new members.

Enclosed find check for a new subscription. I am hoping to send other subscriptions later.

Most cordially yours,
LUCY R. CASE
Washington State Legislative Chairman

and by Professor Nansen, High Commissioner of the League of Nations.

In addition to the usual business agenda, the conference had several subjects of general interest on its program for discussion. The chief interest centered around the address on "The Place of University Women in the World's Work," by Professor Spurgeon of the United States, president of the International Federation, in which she dealt with the desirability of opening up careers for women in the higher branches of industry, trade and finance. Professor Spurgeon was followed by Viscountess Rhondda of England, described on the program as "Director of the Cambrian Collieries and Chairman of the British Fire Insurance Co." Miss Margaret Goldsmith, assistant trade commissioner to the American Embassy in Berlin, followed. Mrs. Corbet-Ashby, president of the international Suffrage Alliance, spoke on women's work in politics. Considerable interest was also displayed in an address by Miss Tuke, principal of Bedford College, London, on the "Language of International Intercourse," and a sub-committee was appointed to go further into this matter. One of the most important speeches was made by Dr. M. Carey Thomas, honorary president of Bryn Mawr College.

Professor Spurgeon, who has been president since the Federation was formed, was not eligible for re-election, and Dean Virginia Gildersleeve of Barnard College, New York, was elected president for the ensuing two years.

During the four years of its existence the Federation has affiliated 20 national branches, Ireland and Switzerland being the last recruits. It was stated that the total membership is 27,000, and that several other countries, notably Poland and Bulgaria, will shortly affiliate. At present American University women form a great majority of the members.

The Danish women have been somewhat reluctant to join an organization which is only for women, as they have hitherto worked on exactly the same lines as men and have all university societies in common. They, however, realize the importance of the International work which can be done by the Federation, and are supporting it loyally. This position is to some extent shared by all the northern university women.

Women In Public Office In The U. S.

THE great increase in the number of women in public office in the United States is indicated by a survey recently completed by the University of Wisconsin. This survey shows that more than 400 women occupy municipal offices in Wisconsin.

Replies to a questionnaire sent to 100 cities of the 137 in the state and from 194 villages reveal 1 woman mayor, 8 members of city councils, 5 city clerks, 9 city treasurers, 1 auditor, 2 justices of the peace, 1 supervisor, 13 policewomen, 102 members of school boards, 92 members of library boards, 11 members of health boards, 19 members of park boards, 11 members of sanitary boards, 2 members of police and fire commissions, 1 commissioner of the poor and 1 member of a hospital board.

In villages reporting to the survey director, there are 12 members of village boards of trustees who are women, 14 village clerks, 28 village treasurers, 2 assessors, 1 supervisor, 4 justices of the peace, 20 members of school boards, 23 members of health boards, 18 members of library boards, 2 members of police and fire commissions and 3 members of park boards. In many villages women act as clerks of the school board.

It is believed by the university bureau member, Miss Gladys E. West, who conducted the survey, that had replies been received from every city and village her research would show at least 500 women are serving in Wisconsin as public officials.

Texas Chooses Woman For Governor

TEXAS is the first state to choose a woman for Governor. This startling innovation was ushered in by the nomination of Mrs. Miriam A. Ferguson on the Democratic ticket. The nomination is conceded to be equivalent to election in this Democratic state.

A vigorous campaign for the nomination was waged by both Mrs. Ferguson and her husband, the impeached Governor of Texas. Opposing Mrs. Ferguson for the nomination was Judge Felix D. Robertson, avowed candidate of the Ku Klux Klan.

Mrs. Ferguson's victory was largely due to the unstinted support of the women in her state, as well as to those who believed in a democratically governed community, free of the Klan influence.

Mrs. Ferguson's entry into the political campaign in Texas came as a result of her husband's impeachment during his term as Governor. Her determination to clear the family name and her husband from the stigma resulting from her husband's impeachment served as a challenge to the mothers and daughters who might at some future time find their family faced by a like situation. Mrs. Ferguson's appeal from what she claimed was an unjust decision against her husband netted her the nomination in her fight against the eight seasoned men politicians who were appealing to the Texas voters. Lost among the others, her candidacy during the major part of the campaign was regarded as a bit of fine sentiment and little more than an emotional appeal.

MRS. FERGUSON was given the nomination with an emphatic majority of more than 80,000 votes. Thus Texas has added its standard to that of Montana, first to name a woman Congressman, Jeanette Rankin; to that of Georgia, whose woman Senator served a day; and to that of Ohio, with her Judge Florence Allen sitting on the Supreme Court Bench.

In no sense, however, is her nomination a gracious compliment or an idle political precedent. It comes after the hardest fought and the most bitter political struggle in the history of the state. Her nomination marks the end of the Ku Klux Klan's political power in Texas.

MRS. FERGUSON became interested in politics when her husband became a candidate for Governor in 1915. He served a term and was a candidate for re-election. For one term and part of another she gave to the social duties of the position the talent that had been previously devoted to her home and children. Feeling that the state had certain claims upon her, she took an interest also in administrative matters and was her husband's valued counselor.

Then came the blow which swept her husband out of office. It came as a result of the Governor's veto of a great appropriation for the State University. This step he had taken, he claimed, to defend the small schoolhouse along the roads in the country against the university group which had been getting a high share of state money. As Mrs. Ferguson stated the situation: "Her husband concluded that higher education for the few was all right, but a lower education for the many was more important, and he took the side of the little red schoolhouse by the side of the road."

That and other of his policies apparently gave him a strong following among the workers, but there were strong elements arrayed against him and the opposition of these increased until, in the early part of the second term, a legislative inquiry was instituted to determine whether he should be impeached.

The House exonerated him, holding the charges insufficient for impeachment, but the Senate rendered a judgment barring him forever from holding office in the state.

This action by the Senate led to Mrs. Ferguson's announcement that she would be the Ferguson family candidate. From the day of this announcement the women of Texas have rallied to her support, and it is their loyalty that is largely responsible for Texas being the first state to recognize a woman as its highest governmental authority.

MRS. FERGUSON'S nomination for the Governor's chair, preceding as it has the Women for Congress campaign, has stimulated the work in the states for the women who have been nominated for Congress where the primaries have already been held. Her victory has roused thousands of women out of the feeling that the election of women to Congress is a more or less hopeless dream this coming November.

IT is interesting to note how rapidly an idea grows after the planting of the first seed. A few years ago—nay, only a year ago—the mention of a woman for governor would have been matter for vaudeville jest. Only a few months ago the potential candidacy of a woman for Congress, on the standing of her own public record instead of relationship to a deceased encumbent, would have been greeted with surprise. Now one single state has nominated four women for Congress,

A Woman For Governor

THE nomination of Mrs. Miriam Ferguson to be Governor of Texas is one of the astonishing developments of American politics. Her nomination is practically equivalent to election. Within a few months, therefore, it may be expected that an American woman, heretofore engaged in the womanly duties attending her place as wife and mother, will preside over the executive department of one of the great states of the Union.

Several local factors entered into the situation which have not been duplicated elsewhere, and which contributed to Mrs. Ferguson's success. She ran primarily to vindicate her husband, whose impeachment prevented him from aspiring to the governorship. But the campaign developed into a bitter fight over the Ku Klux Klan, and Mrs. Ferguson personified the opposition to the Klan.

The great vote cast for her is evidence that the straight-thinking Texans are determined not to be ruled by invisible conspirators. Her victory gives encouragement everywhere to faint-hearted politicians who have feared the power of the Klan. Republicans and Democrats can share the gratification that should be felt by all Americans in this rebuke to the unpatriotic and dangerous organization that has wormed its way into politics.

But Mrs. Ferguson personifies more than opposition to the Klan. She represents American womanhood at its best. There was a romantic feature of her campaign, in championing her life mate, that appealed to all sides; but even this cause would not have won her battle if she had not been a suitable candidate. She is a woman of education and refinement, "not too good for human nature's daily food," devoted to her family and her household, thrifty, hard-working and sensible. Texans saw that her election to the governorship would tend to restore respect for homely virtues and would probably inject into the state government a business-like thoroughness that has been lacking.

Somehow, it is a foregone conclusion that there will be no grafting under the rule of this woman Governor. It goes without saying that she will attend to the state's affairs as she attends to her own—with the vigilance and prudence that are better than high-brow theories of statecraft. Mrs. Ferguson states that in fiscal and other complicated matters she will be guided largely by her husband's advice, but in dealing with sociological problems she will put her own ideas into effect. She seeks the betterment of women, of children, prison reform, etc., a field in which doubtless she can accomplish much permanent good.

—*Washington D. C. Post, August 26, 1924.*

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

To remove all forms of the subjection of women.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation"

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 21.
House Joint Resolution Number 75.]

Introduced in the Senate, December 10, 1923, by Senator Charles E. Curtis.
Introduced in the House of Representatives, December 13, 1923, by Representative D. R. Anthony.

The Hare and the Tortoise

FOR a considerable number of years American women have been regarded as occupying a position in the forefront of progress. Continental women have envied them their liberty, their ability, their opportunity to develop and enjoy. But the indications of the moment are that they will lose their ranking unless they are moved by a new spirit fraught with initiative and self-respect. Already in England and on the Continent far more women sit in legislative assemblies than do in the United States. Abroad women are rulers and have been for countless years. Queen Elizabeth, Queen Catherine, Queen Victoria, Queen Wilhelmina are figures regarded with admiration and respect, but a woman President of the United States in the year 1924 is looked upon not only as an impossibility, but as a jest. No political party in America today dares nominate a woman for the quality of post held successfully by more than one woman prior to the Christian era.

This modern attitude of mind in America is one of the results of a neglected democracy. Women have permitted themselves to be set aside; they have failed to participate actively in politics; they have overlooked the significance of government in their own and their children's lives, and in consequence they appear as grotesque strangers in the political arena. A queen has the prestige of ages; a woman President has no standing at all, and yet the authority of the two posts does not greatly differ.

The truth of the matter is that America has too long rested on her laurels. The rest of the world has caught up with her; in some instances has even passed her, so far as the position of women is concerned. It is an outstanding fact that the status of woman determines the degree of civilization achieved by any race or nation; hence, unless America desires to be outdone, her women must arouse themselves to their new responsibilities. Let us not re-enact the old story of the Hare and the Tortoise, with the American woman as one of the leading characters.

Now, All Together

IT is seldom that the National Woman's Party embarks upon a quest that it does not fulfill. The respect in which the Party is held, even by its enemies, is in large measure due to this trial. Consequently, we feel as comfortable assurance that the objective outlined in these columns several weeks ago—to double our subscription list before September first, has been achieved, although we have not heard final results from all state subscription chairmen. Were we to close the lists today, we should be greatly chagrined, for, while a large number of new subscriptions have come in, they have been gathered by a few, and the plan offered was for each member to secure one new subscriber herself as a pledge of her interest in the cause.

The success of Equal Rights, in a double sense, is wholly dependent upon the number of individuals who give themselves whole-heartedly to the work. Victory cannot be achieved by a few. No matter how great the ability, no matter how profound the dedication of the spirit may be on the part of the leaders in the movement, the rank and file, in the ultimate, determine the outcome. Moreover, it is not the spectacular work that is of most avail, but the hard, monotonous daily grind that counts in the end. A new subscriber is of far more import than the most inspired rhetoric so far as the success of Equal Rights is concerned. The principal thing for every member of the Party to realize is that no one can do her work for her. If she leaves it undone, this will lie, a reproach instead of a consummation, to all time.

At peril of monotony, we repeat, have you, O reader of these lines, sent in your new subscription?

The Campaign Begins

THE "Women for Congress" campaign is launched and the National Woman's Party workers are taking up their positions at strategic points throughout the country. Intensive work for the election of the women candidates is now in full swing.

Pennsylvania, in particular, with its four women candidates, all endorsed by the Woman's Party, has become a veritable hotbed of "Women for Congress" activities. In Philadelphia, Anita Pollitzer, national secretary, is in charge of the Woman's Party campaign for Jennie Dornblum, candidate for Congress for the third district on the La Follette ticket and the Socialist ticket. Mrs. Dornblum has for years been a worker for women and helped very actively in the suffrage fight. She is a member of the Woman's Party. The campaign at present is centered on securing the necessary signatures to place her name on the ballot in November. She has already received the endorsement of the La Follette committee, but can be placed upon the ballot only by filing a petition. Mrs. Dornblum is already on the ticket as the Socialist nominee.

In another district in Philadelphia, Jean Wold, national organizer of the Woman's Party, is in charge of the Woman's Party campaign for Mrs. Jessie Collett, Democratic candidate from the second district. Mrs. Collett has also received the endorsement of the La Follette committee and is now circulating the petition to place her upon the ballot on the La Follette ticket as well as on the Democratic ticket. Mrs. Collett is a member of the Woman's Party and was an active worker in the suffrage campaign.

In Meadville, Pa., Mabel Vernon, executive secretary of the Woman's Party, is working on behalf of the Woman's Party for the election of Mrs. Elizabeth Culbertson, Prohibition nominee for the twenty-ninth district. Mrs. Culbertson has also received the endorsement of the La Follette state committee and is now securing the signatures to the petition to place her name on the ballot as a nominee of the La Follette Party. Mrs. Culbertson is also a member of the Woman's Party.

IN Colorado, Mrs. Lillian H. Kerr, state vice-chairman of the Woman's Party, is putting up a strong fight for the nomination in the primaries September 9th. Ernestine Parsons and Rowena Dashwood are acting as national organizers for the Woman's Party in her district, and Margaret Whittemore of Santa Barbara, one of the national vice-presidents of the Woman's Party, has gone to Colorado Springs to give her assistance.

Mrs. Kerr was recently endorsed by the Federated Trades Council of Colorado Springs, which has authorized its secretary to send letters to all affiliated unions urging their support and similar endorsement. The Jane Jefferson Club of Denver, the largest club of Democratic women in the state, has telegraphed Mrs. Kerr, congratulating her on her designation for Congress by the Democratic State Convention, and wishing her every success. The club has also invited her to speak at their annual dinner.

Dr. Caroline Spencer, Colorado member of the National Council of the National Woman's Party, is Mrs. Kerr's campaign manager. She writes that the women of the state are taking hold of the "Women for Congress" idea with enthusiasm. "Women for Congress" clubs are being organized throughout the district to distribute Mrs. Kerr's cards and circulars and to arrange meetings for her. Mrs. Susan H. B. Gray, state treasurer of the Woman's Party, started August 27th on a trip through the district to visit most of the counties in the district to arrange meetings to be addressed by Mrs. Kerr.

IN addition to the campaign for the women who are running for Congress, the state branches of the Woman's Party are seeking to line up all candidates for Congress back of the Equal Rights Amendment. Among the candidates who have recently pledged themselves to support the amendment is H. Alvin Moore, who seeks to represent the first district of the State of Washington in Congress. The first plank in his platform reads: "For the constitutional amendment submitted by the Womans' Party, providing 'Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction.'"

In that state also the Pomona Granges of five counties have just passed a resolution endorsing the Amendment and urging the Senators and Representatives to do all in their power to secure the passage of the Amendment. The state grange has also published and sent a questionnaire on its legislative program to all candidates for Congress and has included in the questionnaire a query on the attitude of prospective candidates toward the Equal Rights amendment.

What Women Are Thinking

ELIZABETH ROBBINS

In "ANCILLA'S SHARE"

"WOMEN who are willing to lend themselves to a measure restricting the equal pay and equal opportunity for other women are not those closest to that particular problem. They are, on the other hand, precisely those who profess themselves 'content' also with women's present rate of political progress, and with such contributions as women are supposed to be making to world affairs. They are women who—thinking superficially of a handful (of the miscalled 'privileged') as constituting womankind—will bid us look at women's improved position before the law, in the universities, in local government, on the League of Nations. 'Look at our gains!'

"We in turn ask: 'What effect can these gains, long overdue or wholly inadequate, be hoped to have upon the menace of the immediate future?'

"Even if British women dare be content with their 'gains,' the women of no one country can save a situation whose essence is its international character.

"No woman sits in any cabinet of the world. No woman is on any council considering peace or war.

"What prospect is there, in any quarter, of her being able to make her contribution? Not even in the republics is there so much as a pretense of any sharing, between men and women, of authority in Government. Switzerland rejects even the preliminary measure, the granting of the suffrage. In the republics of South America woman suffrage has only recently come so far as serious contemplation. Whether it is a fact, as we are told, that she may not so much as write a cheque, no woman in Republican France may vote. The most powerful of all republics is more exclusively masculine in its public life than is monarchical England. We hear of three or four women of high character and achievement who have passed the ring fence round minor public office—but what officially acknowledged leadership in active politics have American women? Not even such hampered, fractional share that women have in the British House of Commons.

"Will not this sex antagonism which debars women from an effectual share in public policies wear itself out?

"Yes, truly, if it does not first wear out the hopes of civilization."

Nobody's Children

AN account of the English legitimacy bill is given by Freda Kirchwey in the *Nation* of August 6th. Miss Kirchwey writes:

England's new legitimacy bill is a short step toward a civilized code of personal relations. By its provisions a child born out of wedlock becomes legitimate through the subsequent intermarriage of its parents. An amendment designed to except from this rule children born of adulterous unions was passionately defended, but ultimately defeated.

Penalizing children for the sins of their parents has as good legal precedent as it has Biblical and biological. By the common law of England, overthrown in the bill just passed, a person could not achieve legitimacy nor have it thrust upon him; he could only be born legitimate. A bastard was "nobody's child." It could inherit neither from the father nor the mother, and its status was unchanged by the subsequent marriage of the parents. In countries accepting the civil or canon law, the marriage of parents legitimized a child previously born. The introduction of this principle—exactly the principle embodied in the recent bill—was urged by the English bishops in the twentieth year of the reign of Henry III. But the proposal was voted down by the Lords, whose pronouncement became famous in English legal history: *"Nolunt leges Angliae mutare, quae huc usque usitatae sunt et approbatae"*—"They do not want to change the laws of England, which up to the present have been used and approved." And so an inhuman doctrine which was sanctified by its antiquity in the year 1236 remained binding until 1924.

Like England under the new dispensation, the United States accepts in general the old church doctrine. The usual rule in this country today is that an illegitimate child becomes legitimate upon the marriage of its parents and may then inherit property and claim support.

Such provisions are interesting; the vast majority of illegitimate children, however, are untouched and unhelped by them. Born of casual unions which do not end in marriage, unacknowledged or disowned by the father and unwanted by the mother, the illegitimate child is still in a human sense "nobody's child." Its chance of life is smaller than that of the child born in marriage; its economic circumstances are usually deplorable; it is frequently abandoned to public charity, and its life is that of an outcast from decent society.

It is these conditions that demand change. Scandinavia, through the influence of its powerful and radical women's movement, has passed liberal legitimacy laws going far toward securing the health and social status of all its children. Soviet Russia, too, has put the welfare of children above all other considerations. One of the earliest decrees of the Soviet Government contains these clauses, which we print for the edification and future of the world:

> "Children born out of wedlock are on an equality with those born in wedlock with regard to the rights and duties of parents toward children, and likewise of children toward parents.
>
> "The persons who make a declaration and give a signed statement to that effect are registered as the father and mother of the child. * * *
>
> "In case the father of a child born out of wedlock does not make such a declaration, the mother of the child or the guardian or the child itself has the right to prove fatherhood by legal means."

Why Blame Blackstone?

By Martha A. Ijams

Editor's Note.— Miss Ijams is a member of the California Branch of the Woman's Party and has for a number of years been a student of the legal position of women.

THE article entitled, "Blackstone and Women," in EQUAL RIGHTS of July 5th, would seem to impute to the great Commentator a responsibility for many of the discriminations against women still existing in our laws today, and not without reason.

We do not have to seek far to find in our Codes and Statutes the collateral heirs, and in many cases, the lineal descendants of Blackstone's tenets: that husband and wife are one person and that one, the husband (Book I, Chap. 15); that a married woman can have no ownership in personal property (II, Chap. 27); that her realty passes into the absolute control of the husband for his lifetime (I, 15); that the product of her labor is his property (I, 15) (this is the law in California and many other states today); that she is utterly incapable of devising lands, and cannot even make a will disposing of her personal effects without the consent of her husband, for all her belongings are absolutely his (II, 32); that she cannot make a contract of any nature, with any person, least of all with her husband, for that "would be the same as though he contracted with himself" (I, 15); and many more of the same kind.

THE criminal law was, if possible, more unjust and unquestionably more barbarous. The wife was one with the husband only so long as it was for his advantage that she should be; the moment she became answerable to the penal law, she regained her legal existence and stood, in her own person, alone before the bar of justice. "For," says Blackstone (I, 15), "in criminal prosecutions, it is true, the wife may be indicted and punished separately."

No woman was entitled to benefit of clergy; any woman, therefore, below the rank of peeress (they were protected by their rank and not their sex) might be hanged for the first offence in simple larceny, bigamy, manslaughter and similar crimes, while any man who could read, even though it were no more than to stammer through the famous "neck-verse" (I Psalm 51; so-called because ability to read it would save his neck), was, for the same offense, subject only to branding on the thumb and a few months' imprisonment; or, as runs the ancient rhyme, for the same crime—

> The man to the plough,
> The woman to the bough.

Again, in the matter of murder, if the husband kills his wife, "it is the same as if he had killed a stranger or any other person; but if the wife kills her husband, it is regarded by the laws as a much more heinous crime, as she not only breaks through the restraints of humanity and conjugal affection, but throws off all subjection to the authority of her husband. And therefore the law denominates her crime as a species of treason, and condemns her to the same punishment as if she had killed the king," which was to be drawn and burnt alive. (I, 15, note 49.)

So that while the wife-murderer, provided he were not a Bluebeard and had not made a practice of uxoricide, might easily escape with a branded thumb and a brief term in prison, the woman who killed her husband, no matter how great her justification, suffered death by torture.

YET in closing his chapter (15, Book I), on "Husband and Wife," Blackstone complacently remarks: "Even the disabilities which the wife lies under are

for the most part intended for her *protection and benefit.*"

What a strangely familiar sound that has in spite of the fact that its author was born just two centuries ago!

When women born in a new world of opportunity, living under a government the basic theory of which is universal equality, women trained and educated on equal terms with men, holding academic and professional degrees from co-educational schools and colleges, winning success in public office and in the business world regardless of sex, will stand united in opposition to the complete elimination of every form of the subjection of women, and will attempt to justify their stand with the plea that the anachronistic discriminations in our laws are "for the *benefit and protection of the sex,*" why blame Blackstone?

"The Home-Maker"

By Dorothy Canfield

A REVIEW BY DOROTHY WALTON

WILL the vocational advisor and character analyst of tomorrow come to the point of advising certain wives to go into business and certain husbands to be the home-maker? Dorothy Canfield in her last novel, "The Home-Maker," touches upon this revolutionary theme, although she defers to convention by condemning her hero to invalidism in order to allow him to continue in his role for which he is best suited.

Deeply rooted in human history is the tradition that women are natural home-makers. Even though women alone can bear children, it does not always follow that they are ideal as mothers or as home-makers. But even to whisper of a change in which father will sometimes assume the role of making the home and rearing the children while mother brings in the bacon is, in popular vernacular, to start something.

Evangeline Knapp was an immaculate housekeeper; so immaculate that it had turned her into a model "case" for the nervous housewife clinic. Nobody dared to walk into the house with dirty shoes. Indeed, home was not home at all, but simply a place in which to eat, sleep and bathe. Evangeline didn't have time just to plain live. She herself suffered from eczema. Her husband had chronic dyspepsia. Henry, the eldest of the children, was a victim of nervous indigestion; Helen was aenemic, and little Stephen, who was too husky to get sick, built up a wall of defense and acted like a devil when irritated.

Lester Knapp, on the other hand, was no business man. A dreamer who had left college to marry before he had ever acquired a career, he had fallen into a job of bookkeeper in Willing's small town department store, and there he stuck. He hated it; he hated the whole idea upon which modern business is built.

"Jerome Willing's business idea, as Lester saw it, was to seize on one of the lower human instincts, the desire for material possessions, to feed it, to inflame it, to stimulate it till it should take on the monstrous proportions of a universal monomania. A city full of women whose daily occupation would be buying things and things and more things yet (the things Jerome Willing had to sell, be it understood)—that was Jerome Willing's vision of good business.

"But what sickened Lester was the unscrupulous exploitation of the home-making necessity, the adroit perversion of the home-making instinct. Jerome Willing wanted to make it appear, hammering in the idea with all the ingenious variation of his advertising copy, that home-making had its beginning and end in good furniture, fine table linen, expensive rugs * * * God! how about keeping alive some intellectual or spiritual passion in the home? How about his children? Did anybody suggest to women that they give to understanding their children a tenth part of the time and real intelligence and real purposefulness they put into getting the right clothes for them? A tenth? A hundredth? The living, miraculous, infinitely fragile fabric of the little human souls they lived with—did they treat that with the care and deft-handed patience they gave to their filet-ornamented table linen?"

Evangeline didn't look at business with the eyes of a poet. For her it had infinite attractions. She loathed housework, despite her immaculateness. The sight of a dishpan full of dishes made her feel like screaming out. As for her children, "there was no sacrifice in the world which she would not make * * * except to live with them." Her imagination all went to things outside her home and children. Constructing becoming clothes for tasteless people—that was something which, though it taxed brain and energy, was really worth while.

THE future for the whole Knapp family looked very dull and hopeless until an accident paralyzing Lester and making it necessary for Evangeline to work changed the whole scheme of things. Evangeline became clerk, and then buyer, and finally manager of the department store in which her husband had been a failure.

Lester became the home-maker, and from the confines of a wheel-chair he organized the household tasks among the children in a way that captured the imaginations of the heretofore frightened little subjects of Evangeline's reign. Somehow, in six months Helen had become a sturdy little girl, Henry's nervous indigestion had disappeared and belligerent Stephen had suddenly become good under the comradely influence of his father. Lester did not despise woman's work. In fact, when Mattie Farnham, a good-natured relative, was shocked at the sight of his darning socks, he returned, "Evangeline darned them a good many years and did the housework. Why shouldn't I? Do you know what you are saying to me, Mattie Farnham? You are telling me that you really think that home-making is a poor, mean, cheap job beneath the dignity of anybody who can do anything else."

Suddenly Lester found he could walk again. Mattie was the only outsider who realized what the changed regime had meant to the family in the way of health and what would happen if Lester must again assume the role of breadwinner and Evangeline return to housework.

DOROTHY CANFIELD'S solution is doubtless a compromise to the established order of things and the back-fence gossips. But for Lester there was no other choice. To accept invalidism for life was better than going back to the old regime or of facing the scorn of the world if he chose to proclaim his cure and trade conventional places with Evangeline. He had discovered in the gardening of his children's souls that you can't hire some one to be a parent for your children, so that the alternative of both of them working was not acceptable.

Miss Canfield, whose understanding of children excels that of any American novelist, has drawn a particularly convincing picture of the three Knapp children, average middle-class youngsters.

Unfortunately, the problem of the story makes everything else subservient to it, so that aside from the Knapp family and Aunt Mattie one feels that the characters and action are more or less mechanical devices with which to stage the drama. But Miss Canfield has given both men and women something to think about. Certainly a world in which equality existed between the sexes might aid in eliminating the sacrifice which Lester Knapp was forced to make.

From The Press

Historical Parallels

The Nation, July 30.

TO the Editor of *The Nation:*

"Sir — When the serfs of Britain, Russia and other countries of Europe were encouraged by little groups of radical persons to strive for freedom, conservative folk argued that the serfs were unfit for freedom; that they needed the protection and control of masters.

"When Garrison, Phillips and other radicals urged the emancipation of America's black slaves, conservative folk again argued that the slaves were unfit for freedom; that they, too, needed the protection and control of their masters.

"Today, when Alice Paul and her little group of radical women urge a constitutional amendment to liberate women from a servile position under the laws of the republic, conservative folk argue that women are not fit for equal liberty with men; that they need the 'protection' and control of male law-makers and courts—their present-day masters.

"Milwaukee, July 2. FRANK PUTNAM."

Women For Congress

Toronto Globe, August 5.

"MISS ALICE PAUL, who headed the organization which secured votes for women in the United States, has started another movement to send ten women to Congress. 'We must bring the feminist movement in the United States up to the standard set by Europe,' says Miss Paul."

To The Ladies!

New York Evening Mail and Telegram, July 16, 1924.

"THE Washington headquarters of the National Woman's Party, that incubator of new and extreme ideas with respect to policies and politics, announces that the slogan of the organization this year is to be 'More and better Congresswomen!'

"Eight years have elapsed since the first woman was elected to the national legislature. Within that period the largest number of Congresswomen in office at any one time has been three out of the 435 of its membership. Only one woman has reached the eminence of a Senatorship, and that through the appointment of a distinguished Southern lady, who never endured the rigors of a campaign in order to reach the goal.

"But the National Woman's Party is going to correct all this. It is going to apply the stupendous forcefulness and zeal with which the country is well acquainted to backing all women candidates for legislative office. Eight women members of the Parliament which sits in Westminster and thirty daughters of Germania in the last Reichstag have whetted their appetite for conquest and stirred them to emulate their European sisters in accomplishment."

Woman's Party Branch Organized

The Legislative Counsellor. June.

"MISS Mabel Vernon, the executive secretary of the National Woman's Party, may well feel proud of her success in the state of Washington. Many bits of misinformation about the Party and its object were quietly laid to rest. There is no question about the need of an earnest group of women devoted to the removal of legal disabilities still resting upon woman, enfranchised though she is.

"Women do not, as a rule, recognize the existence of disabilities; because the majority of American men are really very much better than the law. Whenever some husband lives up to the limit of what the laws allow him to do the community raises its voice horror-stricken, yet sure that for such wrongs there is redress at law. All honor to this group of consecrated women whose research bureau is carefully tabulating the discriminations against women in every state of the Union. These discriminations cover education, business, civic, industry and home life. They have been found to be so many that if they were taken off the state statute books, one by one, women would not be as free as men for another century or two. Besides what one legislature grants at the next session it may be repealed. The Woman's Party, therefore, while not neglecting federal or state legislation, is firmly and persistently seeking to have the principle of Equal Rights embodied in the federal constitution."

Coming Elections

Christian Science Monitor, July 23.

"HEADS of various women's organizations are seeking to get out a record vote on the part of the most recently enfranchised section of the electorate. * * * The Woman's Party is out for votes not only by women, but for women. In a statement issued from headquarters here it was pointed out that in only three of the fifteen states in which primary nominations for Congress have been held has a woman received a nomination on any ticket."

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